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Letter dated 7 September 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward the statement of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of 5 September 2000 (see annex). I should be grateful if you would have it circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61 (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/55/150 and Corr.1 and 2.

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STATEMENT
OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia lodges the strongest protest at the official decision of the Secretariat of the United Nations to withdraw the invitation to the delegation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to participate in the forthcoming Millennium Summit in New York from 6 to 8 September which was extended to the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, as early as 25 August last year.

At the same time, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia condemns most strongly this act of the Secretariat of the United Nations which occurred at the very beginning of the Millennium Summit at the time when the Yugoslav delegation, headed by the President of the Federal Government, Mr. Momir Bulatovic, was about to leave for New York to conduct talks with numerous highest-ranking representatives of the member-States at the time of the Millennium Summit.

The explanation that the invitation to the Summit was extended "in error" is completely unacceptable to the Yugoslav Government and it resolutely rejects it. Such an act of the Secretariat of the United Nations represents an unrecorded precedent in the history of the United Nations and is in full contravention with the goals and principles of the Charter and practice of the United Nations. What is involved is discrimination against a country, a founder and a member-State of the United Nations, the true aim of which is to deny Yugoslavia, in an illegitimate and undignified way, the possibility to present its positions on the region in which it plays an important part of a factor of peace and stability, international relations and on the role of the world Organization. Unfortunately, this is only yet another expression and consequence of the haughty and arrogant policy of the host country of the United Nations which already a few days ago rejected to issue visas to the leaders of the Yugoslav delegation to the jubilee Conference of the Inter-parliamentary Union in New York. All this shows that the world Organization and the largest gathering of the democratically elected representatives of all peoples are being manipulated, all for the purpose of realizing the hegemonist policy of that country. It is evident that there exists a fear from the truth, from the responsibility for last year's aggression of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, for causing huge human casualties, for the suffering of the citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, enormous economic destruction and for a systematic violation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) in the Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija.

If that practice were to be allowed and legalized, it would lead to a further erosion of the basic postulates of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly of the principles of equality and the sovereign equality and universality of the United Nations. At the same time, it would deal a blow to the democratic foundations, reputation and authority of the world Organization which have been created painfully over the last half a century and to which Yugoslavia has made its contribution.

The gross and illegal act represents also an insult to the vast majority of the member-States of the United Nations which set store by consistent respect for the Charter, principles and goals of the organization and for international law and therefore calls for their strongest condemnation. The Federal Government therefore calls on all member-States of the United Nations to resolutely reject all attempts to do away with the democratic principles, openness and universality on which the system of the United Nations is rested and to condemn the policy of pressure and fait accompli, the aim of which is to establish diktat over the world Organization.

Irrespective of this last shameful act, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will continue to pledge its support to open and equitable cooperation with all countries of the world also in the future and is ready to render its contribution, as a founder and a member-State of the United Nations, to putting an end to attempts to erode the United Nations and to the launching of a new trend of the strengthening of its influence and democratic nature as an open and universal international organization. In order to achieve that goal to which aspires the majority of mankind the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers that it is necessary that member-States join efforts in a resolute opposition to the practice and principles that harm the reputation and influence of the world Organization, particularly to all attempts to violate the Charter of the United Nations and the decisions of the Security Council.

Belgrade, 5 September 2000